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REPORTING OFFICE CHICAGO	OFFICE OR BUREAU NEW YORK	DATE 3-13-57	REGISTRATION NUMBER 2/51 3/1, 4, 5/57
NAME OF CASE ESTONIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN THE UNITED STATES		INVESTIGATOR RICHARD J. DARRAGH, JR.	TYPE OF MLH
		CHARACTER OF CASE REGISTRATION ACT	

ELIAS KASAK, 8328 North Mango, Morton Grove, Illinois, advised 2/5/57 that he is a member of the Estonian Society of Chicago, one of many such societies in the United States comprised of former Estonian displaced persons. These societies submit for election to the captioned organization, which is the central governing body of all these Estonian societies in the United States, a candidate every two years. This national committee is headquartered in the Estonian House, 243 East 34th Street, New York City, and is presently comprised of 39 members. Mrs. ELSINA CLAYTON, 318 North Michigan, Chicago, Illinois, founder and honorary president of the Estonian Society of Chicago, advised 3/1/57 that the captioned organization is purely a governing body comprised of elected representatives of the individual Estonian societies throughout the United States which meets in New York City four times a year for the purpose of planning social, educational and cultural events with which to raise funds to carry out the purposes of the organization. These include the restoration of an independent Estonia, to fight Communism

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④ - Bureau (REGISTERED) 3 - New York (97-1364) (REGISTERED) 1 - Chicago (97-2681)				

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end to preserve the Estonian language and culture among the Estonian displaced persons in the United States. Both KASAK and CLAYTON declared that the captioned organization has no connections with any foreign groups either governmental or political, but is concerned only with the Estonians in the United States and the furtherance of its purposes as set forth above. Present membership of captioned organization set forth.

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DETAILS:

On September 27, 1956, Mr. ELIAS KASAK, 8328 North Mango, Morton Grove, Illinois, advised that he had been a candidate to the Estonian National Committee in the United States, an organization headquartered in New York City during 1954.

On February 5, 1957, Mr. KASAK was reinterviewed by SAs CHARLES E. LOBER and RICHARD J. DARRAGH, Jr., and voluntarily furnished the following information concerning captioned organization:

He became a member of the Estonian Society of Chicago in 1952 and was a candidate to the Estonian National Committee in the United States during 1954. This committee is made up of delegates elected for a two year period from candidates selected by the numerous Estonian societies throughout the United States.

Mr. KASAK advised that the Estonian National Committee in the United States is headquartered in New York City and meets every few months to plan social activities to be held as fund raising events with these funds to be used in the furtherance of the committee's main purpose, the restoration of a free and independent Estonia.

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This committee is comprised of individuals residing in the United States and has no connections politically or governmentally with any foreign group.

On March 1, 1957, (Mrs.) ELLEN CLAYTON, 318 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, the former and honorary president of the Estonian Society of Chicago, furnished the following information concerning the Estonian Society of Chicago of which KASAK is a member and also the Estonian National Committee in the United States for which organization KASAK was a candidate for election in 1954.

In 1948 two individuals from the Estonian Relief Committee, Incorporated, of New York City, visited her at her home in Hinsdale, Illinois, requesting that she attempt to find sponsors in the Chicago area for Estonian displaced persons. As a result of this meeting, Mrs. CLAYTON set up the Chicago Estonian Relief Committee, Incorporated, a representative of the New York organization, with an office at 400 North Michigan, Chicago. Mrs. CLAYTON, in order to locate sponsors, made many speeches before civic and educational groups requesting their assistance in bringing Estonian displaced persons to the United States. The first displaced persons came to Chicago in 1949. It was the purpose of the Estonian Society of Chicago to find sponsors, work and places to live for these people. The original Relief Committee in Chicago has been discontinued and the Estonian Society of Chicago has taken its place. Weekly meetings are held Saturday and Sundays and office space is rented in the Finnish Community Center, 4219 North Lincoln Avenue, Chicago. The society is incorporated as a nonprofit cultural, educational and mutual benefit society under the laws of the State of Illinois. Funds with which to continue its work are obtained through the sponsorship of parties, concerts, etc., and through the payment of \$2 - \$3 monthly dues paid by the local membership. ORG - U.S.A

There are many such societies throughout the United States. The Original Estonian Society is located in New York City at 243 East 34th Street. Every two years local societies throughout the United States elect candidates to the Estonian National Committee in the United States, headquartered at the above address in

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New York and a national election decides the membership. During the 1954 elections KISAK was a candidate from the Estonian Society of Chicago but declined due to the cost involved. Elected delegates are expected to pay their own expenses in traveling to and from New York City to attend the meetings of this committee.

Mrs. CLAYTON advised that the purposes of the Estonian National Committee in the United States are as follows:

(1) Never to relinquish the fight against the Soviet Union with the ultimate aim, the restoration of an independent Estonia.

(2) To collect material in the United States relating to acts of terror committed by the Soviet occupiers of Estonia and supply this material to the Baltic Committee of the United States Congress.

(3) To maintain liaison with all Estonian organizations in the United States for the purpose of preserving Estonian culture and language.

According to Mrs. CLAYTON this committee was first organized in 1952.

The following Estonian organizations are headquartered in the Estonian House, 243 East 34th Street, New York, which building is jointly owned by these organizations:

Estonian National Committee in the United States.

Publication Offices of the Newspaper, "Free Estonian Word."

Estonian Relief Committee of New York.

Estonian Educational Society of New York.

Mrs. CLAYTON stated that the Estonian Society of Chicago and the Estonian National Committee in the United States have no connections at all with foreign governments or political parties.

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Mr. S. CLARK concluded by stating that the present membership of the captioned organization who were elected in 1956 are predominantly drawn from the area of the United States immediately surrounding New York City due to the cost of transportation which is borne by the individual delegates. A breakdown is as follows:

28 from New York, 2 from Connecticut, 1 each from Pennsylvania and Maryland, 5 from New Jersey, and 1 each from California and Florida; a total of 39 members. The complete list of members is as follows:

NAME	YEAR BORN	ADDRESS
ABEL, ALEXANDER	1904	Montgomery, Connecticut
ALLIX, HANS	1902	New York, New York
ANDERSON, ALFRED J.	1901	New York, New York
DEBRICK, EDWARD	1900	New York, New York
ELLAS, PETER	1905	New York, New York
ESCH, LEONARD S.	1910	New York, New York
ESPELIAUD, RICHARD	1908	New York, New York
FANGER, JULIUS	1918	New York, New York
FEDER, KELMAR	1912	New York, New York
FELIAS, HAROLD	1886	New York, New York
FELCHILL, EDITH	1904	New York, New York
FIRESTAGGI, FEDEL	1900	New York, New York
KOELTS, JULIAN	1907	Jessica, New York
KOCH, JOHANNES B.	1904	New York, New York
KURT, KARL	1886	New York, New York
KAESLA, AUGUST	1903	New York, New York
LIBSHI, ERNST	1887	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
LEINER, AUGUST	1887	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
METZIK, VOLDEMAR	1907	New York, New York
MICHELSON, HERBERT	1904	Jersey City, New Jersey
MURKIS, VICTORIA	1862	San Francisco, California
OLEIN, PETER	1887	Baltimore, Maryland
OSTRA, JOHN	1904	Providence, Rhode Island
PLANK, UNO	1901	Orange, New Jersey
PURER, EMAR	1903	Wilmington, Connecticut
RAOG, ARNOLD	1926	New York, New York
RAOOG, GASTON O.	1907	New York, New York
REINHOLD, FEDEL	1911	New York, New York
ROBERT, LEO	1898	New York, New York
SAAR, PAUL	1910	Brentwood, New York
SCHERMAN, FELIK	1915	Brentwood, New York

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Year born</u>	<u>Address</u>
TAMMAN, FERDINAND J.	1912	Lakewood, New Jersey
TIRDEKERO, JOHN W.	1888	Fort Lauderdale, Florida
TOOMEPUU, JUHAN	1902	New York, New York
URM, KARL	1900	Long Branch, New Jersey
VAHTER, LEONHARD	1896	Teeaneck, New Jersey
VALLASTE, EDUARD	1901	Port Washington, New York
VASAR, JOHAN	1905	New York, New York
WALDMAN, AUGUST	1884	New York, New York

The files of the Chicago Office contain no information pertaining to the Estonian National Committee in the United States.

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